

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 13-16, 18-21, 25-32, and 38 are rejected in the final Office Action. Claims 8-12, 22-24, and 33-37 are found allowable except for their dependence on rejected base claims. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 14, 26, and 36 to incorporate allowable subject matter into the independent claims, and has cancelled claims 7, 9-12, 20-22, 24, and 32-35. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8, 13-19, 23, 25-31, and 36-38 remain pending.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102

1. In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102” on page 4 of the above-cited Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 7, 26-28, and 32 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0221834 to *Schollmeier et al.* (hereinafter “Schollmeier”) under 35 USC §102(e).

The rejections of claims 7 and 32 are obviated by their cancellations.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the recitations of claim 9 and has amended claim 26 to include the recitations of claim 35. Claims 9 and 35 were found to be allowable but for their dependence on claims 1 and 26. Accordingly, as the recitations of claims 9 and 35 are now included in claims 1 and 26, Applicant believes claims 1 and 26 to now be allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 27, and 28 depend from claims 1 and 26, respectively, incorporating their limitations. Thus, for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 26 are allowable, claims 2, 3, 27, and 28 are also allowable.

2. In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102” on page 8 of the above-cited Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 14-16, 18, 19, and 25 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0036486 to *Sahinoglu et al.* (hereinafter “Sahinoglu”) under 35 USC §102(e).

In response, Applicant has amended claim 14 to include the recitations of claim 22. Claim 22 was found to be allowable but for its dependence on claims 14.

Accordingly, as the recitations of claim 22 are now included in claim 14, Applicant believes claim 14 to now be allowable.

Claims 15, 16, 18, 19, and 25 depend from claim 14, incorporating its limitations. Thus, for at least the reasons that claim 14 is allowable, claims 15, 16, 18, 19, and 25 are also allowable.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103(A)

1. In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103” on page 13 of the above-cited Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 20 and 21 as being unpatentable over Sahinoglu in view of Schollmeier under 35 USC §103(a).

The rejections of claims 20 and 21 are obviated by their cancellations.

2. In “Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103” on page 14 of the above-cited Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 4-6, 13, 29-31, and 38 as being unpatentable over Schollmeier in view of Sahinoglu under 35 USC §103(a).

As mentioned above, claims 1 and 26 have been amended to include the recitations of claims 9 and 35, which were found to be allowable but for their dependence on claims 1 and 26. Thus, claims 1 and 26 are now allowable.

Claims 4-6, 13, 29-31, and 38 are dependent on claims 1 and 26, respectively, incorporating their limitations. Thus, for at least the reasons that claim 14 is allowable, claims 4-6, 13, 29-31, and 38 are also allowable.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In “Allowable Subject Matter” on page 16 of the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner finds claims 8-12, 17, 22-24, and 33-37 allowable but for their dependence upon rejected base claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding the subject matter of those claims allowable (if re-written in independent form). In response, Applicant has amended

claim 1 to include the recitations of claim 9, has amended claim 14 to include the recitations of claim 22, and has amended claim 26 to include the recitations of claim 35. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-6, 8, 13-19, 23, 25-31, and 36-38 are in condition for allowance. Entry of the foregoing is respectfully requested and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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